



Issue 12

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Ariana Airlines Flies the Skies of Afghanistan Again

*Story and photos by
SpC. C. Elijah Spencer
211th Mobile Public
Affairs Detachment*

Kandahar, Afghanistan -- Kandahar Governor Pashtun, the president of Airiana Airlines, Lt. Col. Robert Duffy of the Provincial Reconstruction Team, Lt. Col. Steven Mahoney of the Air Support Task Force and Col. Larry Swift of the 10th Mountain Division were among the many key individuals in attendance for the inaugural commercial flight of Ariana Airlines' arrival to Kandahar from Kabul,



Select Officials Greet passengers as they arrive in Kandahar

Afghanistan.

This is the first of many weekly flights slated for Kandahar. The reemergence of Ariana Airline flights in Afghanistan is a part of reconstruction efforts by Coalition Forces to help rebuild Afghanistan.

"This is a very important milestone for the company and for Afghanistan", said Mahoney.

The Kandahar International Airport terminal will also be handed back over to the local government, and the Kandahar Air Strip will become a joint civilian and military run airfield in the near future.

"This went ahead of our original schedule," said Mahoney. "We're very pleased."

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David A O'halloran checks the connection on the conversion to run a MBITR radio directly from a 5590 battery

REF; Giving Soldiers the Technical Edge

*Story and photo by
SpC. Zia Ul Haq
211th Mobile Public
Affairs Detachment*

Kandahar, Afghanistan -- In the war on Terrorism, the US Army fights in an environment it has never before experienced. With so many changes, the soldiers must also adjust and adapt their fighting techniques. This calls for a high demand of new and innovative equipment.

The solution to these in-field needs of the Army is the Rapid Equipping Force or REF.

An Army Vice Chief of Staff directive, REF was established to get new and innovative equipment and technical support people in the theater, stated Ken D. Zemach, Ph. D., REF engineer. Since February 2003, three personnel have been on the ground to assess the needs of the

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From the Top



XM8 Lightweight Assault Rifle

In October 2002 ATK (Alliant Techsystems) was awarded a \$5 million contract modification from the U.S. Army Armament Research, Development, and Engineering Center (ARDEC), Picatinny, N.J., to develop the new XM8 Lightweight Assault Rifle. ATK Integrated Defense, Plymouth, Minn., and teammate Heckler and Koch, Oberndorf, Germany, will support the rapid development program, which will investigate the potential of the XM8 as the lightweight assault rifle for the Army's Objective Force.

The XM8 will be based on the kinetic energy weapon that is part of the XM29 next-generation infantry weapon system (formerly the Objective Individual Combat Weapon) currently under development by ATK Integrated Defense. The kinetic energy weapon, which fires 5.56mm ammunition, will provide maximum commonality in components and logistics with the XM29 system.

The XM8 will provide lethality performance comparable to the currently fielded M4 carbine rifle, while weighing 20 percent less than the M4 because of advanced technologies developed for the XM29 program.

The XM8 Lightweight Assault Rifle will reduce the 21st century soldier's load and increase his mobility - two very important aims of the Army's Objective Force Warrior and Land Warrior initiatives. The progress made to reduce weight and improve performance on the XM29 program is key to the decision on accelerating the development of the XM8, which is integrated with the Army's efforts to transform to a more lethal and rapidly deployed fighting force as part of its Objective Force.

ATK Integrated Defense is the system integrator on the XM29 program. Teammates on the program are Heckler and Koch, weapon development; ATK Ammunition Systems, Arden Hills, Minn., ammunition development; Brashear LP, Pittsburgh, Pa., integrated full solution fire control; and Omega, Columbus, Ga., training systems.



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Coalition Task Force

Warrior Commander:

Col. William B. Garrett III

Coalition Task Force Warrior

Command Sgt. Maj.

Command Sgt. Maj. Frank A. Grippe

10th Mountain Brigade PAO:

Capt. Kevin K. Dasher

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Commander:

Capt. Kevin K. Dasher

NCOIC:

Staff Sgt. Dave S. Thompson

Editor/Layout:

Spc. C. Elijah Spencer

Journalist / Photojournalist / Graphics:

Spc. Zia Ul Haq, Spc. Timothy S. Melzow

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Old Enemies Unite On A Distant Field

*Story and photo by
Cpt. Andrew T. Sabata
3-6 Field Artillery*

For 45 years, throughout the Cold War, no American soldier would have dared imagine sharing the field of battle with his Warsaw Pact enemies beyond the Iron Curtain. For many Americans, that thought would have been an unimaginable dream. Today however, as part of the War on Terrorism, those dreams have become reality for the soldiers of the 3rd Battalion, 6th Field Artillery. The Centaur battalion, serving throughout Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, has forged a new bond of solidarity with fellow soldiers from its former adversary, Romania. The soldiers of both nations put this bond to the test this month as the Centaurs supported a live fire exercise before an audience that included, among others, General of the Army Mihail Eugeniu Popescu PhD., the Romanian Chief of the General Staff.

Both the redlegs of Charlie Battery, 3-6 FA and the soldiers of the 151st Romanian Infantry Regiment operate from Kandahar Airfield, located in the southern portion of Afghanistan. As members of Combined Task Force Warrior, the Centaurs and Romanians operate extensively throughout Afghanistan. The soldiers of Charlie Battery, 3-6 FA man their guns from their firebase at Kandahar Airfield to support the Romanian infantry who conduct daily security patrols throughout the surrounding area.

The live fire exercise was the culmination of weeks of planning and rehearsals for the American and Romanian officers and soldiers. Conducted on the Tarnak Farms Range Complex, south of the CTF Warrior base at Kandahar Airfield, the exercise showcased the talents of both the Romanian infantry and the American artillerymen supporting them. The sounds of battle echoed across Kandahar Airfield as the Romanian infantry put on an impressive display of firepower using their armored personnel carriers, mortars, rocket-propelled grenade launchers, and individual weapons. Not wanting to be left out, the Centaurs added their own symphony of high explosive shells and smoke in an awesome mixture of sound and fury.



“We have created an atmosphere of cooperative engagement that will allow our two nations to operate more effectively and ultimately lead to a successful mission,”



Soldiers of Charlie Battery, 3-6 FA, fire in support of Romanian LFX. As the exercise came to an end, the Romanian general seemed impressed by the display. The former inspector general of the Romanian Army's artillery, with a PhD. in military science, General Popescu must have an astute appreciation for the important contribution artillery brings to the battlefield. Any respect paid by this lifelong artilleryman is high praise indeed for the Centaur Battalion and its soldiers. More importantly than the effect of the exercise on the minister, is the bond of trust that is developing between the soldiers of these two different nations. On patrol, the Romanian infantrymen now know they can trust the soldiers of the Centaur Battalion to provide timely and accurate fires whenever and wherever they are needed.

“We have created an atmosphere of cooperative engagement that will allow our two nations to operate more effectively and ultimately lead to a successful mission,” said LTC Christopher F. Bentley, commander of 3-6 FA. Across the fields of Afghanistan, this remark rings true as the soldiers of the 151st Romanian Infantry Regiment patrol the dusty highways and villages surrounding Kandahar Airfield knowing that the guns of the Centaur Battalion follow their every move and stand ready to support them. The soldiers of 3-6 FA find comfort too in knowing that they are overwatching their new friends by standing ready and remaining, as always, “Swift and Bold!”

WORLD NEWS

U.S. Troops Arrest Copter Attack Suspects



By JIM GOMEZ
Associated Press Writer

TIKRIT, Iraq (AP) — U.S. troops have arrested six Iraqis suspected in attacks against U.S. helicopters, including at least two allegedly involved in last week's downing of a Black Hawk that killed all six Americans on board, officials said Friday.

U.S. troops captured the six during a series of nighttime raids between Tuesday and Friday in Tikrit, Saddam Hussein's hometown.

The military said the first two are suspected of involvement in the Nov. 7 downing of the Black Hawk in Tikrit. Lt. Col. Steven Russel, a battalion commander with the 4th Infantry Division, said the other four were involved in attacks against American helicopters but did not specify which ones.

"We were targeting individuals believed to be involved in the shooting down of U.S. aircraft, helicopters," Russel told The Associated Press Television News.

One of those arrested was a police officer issued a badge by coalition forces, he said.

The Black Hawk went down near the eastern bank of the Tigris River. The U.S. military has not disclosed an official cause, but the commander of U.S. forces in Iraq, Lt. Gen. Ricardo Sanchez, has said he believes the helicopter was shot down.

"The people we've detained have some connection to the incident or we would not have gone after them," Russell said. "We still have some important leads we're trying to follow."

Iraqi police have also detained a number of suspects in the

Black Hawk incident independently of the American efforts, U.S. officials said.

Hamid Muzhir, the police chief of Salahuddin province which includes Tikrit, said he believed the Black Hawk was shot down by members of Saddam's security forces because of the considerable training needed to launch such an attack.

U.S. Soldier Killed in Afghanistan

JALALABAD, Afghanistan — An American soldier was killed when his vehicle struck an explosive device in Afghanistan's eastern Kunar province, a U.S. military spokesman said Saturday.

The special operations soldier was killed Friday near Asadabad, the capital of Kunar, where U.S.-led coalition forces launched a large operation a week ago, spokesman Col. Rodney Davis said.

The soldier's name was withheld pending notification of his family, the U.S. Central Command said in a statement from its headquarters in Tampa, Fla.

A U.S. soldier was also reported wounded. It was not known if that soldier was hurt in the same explosion. Davis — speaking at a briefing in Bagram, the U.S. military headquarters in Afghanistan — would not provide details.

The coalition's "Operation Mountain Resolve" is taking place in Nuristan and Kunar provinces, a difficult area of steep, snow-covered mountains.

Insurgents believed linked to the Taliban, who were ousted from power in Afghanistan two years ago by the U.S.-led coalition, and suspected Al Qaeda members have stepped up attacks against coalition forces, supporters of Afghanistan's central government and aid agencies.

There have been several recent clashes with Taliban and Al Qaeda suspects in Paktika, which borders Pakistan. Last month, two CIA agents were killed in an ambush near the base at Shkin



WORLD NEWS

Three U.S. Soldiers Face Court-Martial

By DIANA ELIAS

Associated Press Writer

KUWAIT CITY (AP) — Three American soldiers refused to plead Saturday to charges of abusing Iraqi prisoners of war, and will face separate court-martials in January, a military spokesman said.

"All three deferred to plea," Maj. Victor Harris told The Associated Press. "They will do it at the trial."

The charges grew out of an alleged incident May 12 at a U.S. detention facility, Camp Bucca, in southern Iraq. The three soldiers, from the 320th Military Police Battalion, based in Ashley, Pa., are accused of punching and kicking Iraqi POWs while escorting them to Camp Bucca.

The soldiers have said they acted in self-defense, that conditions were chaotic at Camp Bucca, and that guards had been harassed and assaulted daily by unruly prisoners.

The three soldiers, Master Sgt. Lisa Marie Girman, 35; Staff Sgt. Scott A. McKenzie, 38; and Spc. Timothy F. Canjar, 21, are accused of dereliction of duty, cruelty and maltreatment of enemy prisoners of war, filling false official statements, obstruction of justice and conspiracy to obstruct justice.

A fourth soldier originally held on the same allegations, Sgt. Shawna Edmondson, 24, has received an other-than-honorable discharge from the military, which she requested rather than face martial proceedings.

The soldiers, who had been stationed at Camp Bucca, were moved to Camp Doha several months ago and suspended from normal duties, but are performing administrative tasks.

Ten Commandments Judge Removed From Bench

By KYLE WINGFIELD

Associated Press Writer

MONTGOMERY, Ala. (AP) — Alabama Chief Justice Roy Moore, who became a hero to religious conservatives for refusing to remove his granite Ten Commandments monument from the state courthouse, was thrown off the bench Thursday by a judicial ethics panel for having "placed himself above the law."

"I have absolutely no regrets. I have done what I was sworn to do," Moore declared afterward, drawing applause from dozens of supporters at the courthouse. "It's about whether or not you can acknowledge God as a source of our law and our liberty.

That's all I've done."

The nine members of the Court of the Judiciary handed out the harshest penalty possible, saying Moore left them with no choice by repeatedly insisting he would never obey a federal judge's order to move the 2 1/2-ton block of granite from the courthouse rotunda.



"Anything short of removal would only serve to set up another confrontation that would ultimately bring us back to where we are today," the panel said.

Moore spent eight months designing the monument and helped move it into the building one night in 2001. He soon became a lightning rod for criticism from civil-liberties activists who said the stone tablets promoted religion in violation of the separation of church and state.

A federal judge ordered the monument removed, and it was finally wheeled away Aug. 27 to a storage room on instructions from Moore's eight fellow justices.

The Court of the Judiciary - a panel of judges, lawyers and others appointed variously by judges, legal leaders and the governor and lieutenant governor - began hearing testimony Wednesday on Moore's defiance and issued its ruling Thursday. The panel could have continued the suspension or reprimanded Moore.

"The chief justice placed himself above the law," said Presiding Judge William Thompson.

The court emphasized that its ruling was not a judgment about the monument itself, stating, "the acknowledgment of God is very much a vital part of the public and private fabric of our country."

Moore, 56, had been suspended since August but was allowed to collect his \$170,000 annual salary.

NEWS cont.

Moore said he would consult with his lawyers and with political and religious leaders as to whether to appeal and would make an announcement next week that could "alter the course of this country." He did not elaborate.

He could appeal to the Alabama Supreme Court. If his removal stands, Gov. Bob Riley will appoint a new chief justice to finish his term, which expires in 2007. Moore could still run for a seat on the court next year, provided he is not disbarred.

The governor issued a statement saying he was "disappointed and concerned that the federal courts continue to attempt to remove references to God and faith from public arenas. All of us must, however, respect the workings of our legal system and trust that it remains the best in the world."

Richard Cohen, president of the Southern Poverty Law Center, one of the three groups that sued Moore over the monument, said the court and the Alabama attorney general, who prosecuted the case, were courageous.

"They stood up to a popular political figure and said no one is above the law. We intend now to file a complaint with the Alabama State Bar Association asking that Moore be disbarred," Cohen said.

Moore and his supporters served notice that his ouster might be a springboard in his crusade for the acknowledgment of God in government.

"They have unleashed Chief Justice Moore on America," said Patrick Mahoney, director of the Christian Defense Coalition. "I can think of no greater spokesperson for our cause."

Greg Sealy, head of the Sitting at His Feet Fellowship in Montgomery, an inner-city mission, said it was the "darkest day" he has seen in America since he moved to the United States from Barbados 23 years ago.

"They stole my vote. The judiciary stole my vote. I voted for Roy Moore," he said.

Moore said he had no animosity toward the panel. But, he said, unless the states stand up, "public acknowledgment of God will be taken from us. 'In God we trust' will be taken from our money and 'one nation under God' from our pledge."

It was as a circuit court judge in the 1990s that Moore became known as the "Ten Commandments Judge," after he was sued by the American Civil Liberties Union for opening court sessions with prayer and for displaying a hand carved Ten Commandments display behind his bench.

He said Wednesday that when he ran for chief justice in 2000, his entire campaign was based on "restoring the moral foundation of law."

French U.N. Official Slain in Afghanistan

KABUL, Afghanistan — A French United Nations worker was shot and killed Sunday by a man on a motorcycle who opened fire on her car. Her driver was wounded.

Bettina Goislard, 29, was the first international U.N. staff member slain in Afghanistan since the fall of the Taliban regime, said David Singh, spokesman for the U.N. Mission in Afghanistan.

Singh said Goislard worked with the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees and was traveling in a vehicle clearly marked with the agency's letters, UNHCR.

The driver of her car, an Afghan national, was shot in the arm and was hospitalized in stable condition, Singh said.

The attack happened at a shopping bazaar in Ghazni, the capital of Ghazni province in central Afghanistan.

"Two men on a motorbike drove by her UNHCR vehicle in Ghazni bazaar, with the passenger rider opening fire at point-blank range on the vehicle," Singh said in Kabul, the Afghan capital. "One inter-

national staff member, a French female national, suffered fatal injuries and was pronounced dead on arrival at a hospital."

Shortly afterward, Afghan police fired at the motorcycle, injuring one of the two men and arresting them both, said Ahmad Zia Masood, a spokesman for Ghazni's governor.

Ghazni Gov. Asadullah Khan said the two men were Taliban fighters. He would not identify them by name but said in an interview: "They are in our custody. We are investigating them. Maybe we will arrest more Taliban."

The U.N. refugee agency is "shocked and devastated" by the death of Goislard, said spokeswoman Delphine Marie.

"She was killed in cold blood," Marie said at UNHCR headquarters in Geneva.

Goislard was in charge of protection for returning refugees and displaced in Ghazni. Her body was being taken to Kabul.

"She helped the 55,000 displaced who returned to Ghazni and worked closely with the local authorities. She was much appreciated by the local community for her caring and tireless work," Marie said. "She adored Afghanistan and apparently had said that if anything ever happened to her she wanted to be buried in Afghanistan."

Marie said it was too early to say what UNHCR would do now, but there would obviously be "a lot of discussions and debate" about action.

It was the first fatal attack on a U.N. worker in Afghanistan since the Taliban regime was ousted by the U.S.-led coalition two years ago, Singh said.

Singh said all U.N. staff members in Kandahar in south Afghanistan, Gardez east of Ghazni, and Jalalabad east of Kabul have been instructed to reduce their movements and send their local staff home as a precaution.

SPORTS



Oklahoma Extends Season-Long Run at No. 1

By JOSH DUBOW
AP Football Writer

Oklahoma remained No. 1 in The Associated Press college football Top 25 for the 13th straight poll, the third longest run ever to begin the season.

The Sooners (10-0) received all 65 first-place votes in balloting by the panel of sports writers and broadcasters Sunday, one day after beating Baylor 41-3. The rest of the top five remained the same, with Southern California, LSU, Ohio State and Michigan following Oklahoma in the poll.

There will be some change next week because the Buckeyes and Wolverines play with the outright Big Ten title on the line.

The only teams to be No. 1 in more consecutive polls to start the season than Oklahoma are Florida State, which went wire-to-wire in 1999, and Nebraska, which had a run of 15 straight No. 1 rankings in 1983 until losing the Orange Bowl to Miami.

Army and Notre Dame went wire-to-wire in 1945 and 1943 respectively, when the polls didn't begin until October.

Oklahoma received the maximum 1,625 points, beating out USC, which had 1,559.

Georgia, Texas, Washington State, Tennessee and TCU round out the top 10. The Horned Frogs are the only undefeated team in major college football other than Oklahoma.

The USA Today/ESPN coaches' poll had the same top eight teams as the AP.

Florida State, the first team to clinch a BCS berth after winning the ACC on Saturday, was 11th and Virginia Tech was 12th. Miami and Florida were tied for 13th, followed by Mississippi, Purdue, Iowa, Miami of Ohio, Kansas State and Boise State.

Pittsburgh, Bowling Green, Nebraska, Oklahoma State and West Virginia round out the poll.

Kansas State, Oklahoma State and West Virginia are this week's newcomers, replacing Minnesota, Michigan State and Northern Illinois.

The Big 12 and SEC lead all conferences with five teams apiece in the poll, followed by four each for the Big Ten and Big East, and two for the Pac-10 and Mid-American. Florida State is the only ACC team in the poll.

Blazers Come From Behind to Beat Kings

By ANNE M. PETERSON
AP Sports Writer

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP)—Zach Randolph has 28 points and 14 rebounds, and the Portland Trail Blazers climbed out of a 24-point deficit to beat the Sacramento Kings 112-110 in overtime Thursday night.

The Blazers rallied to tie it five times in the second half but could not take over the lead until overtime.

Damon Stoudamire's reverse layup put Portland ahead for the first time in the game, 109-107 with 3:23 left in the extra period, before Rasheed Wallace followed up with a decisive dunk.

Mike Bibby hit a 3-pointer to keep it close at 111-110, but Doug Christie missed a 23-foot jumper that would have put the Kings back on top.

After he was fouled with 5.8 seconds left, Wallace missed his first free throw but made his second, and the Blazers went ahead 112-110 before Bibby missed an 18-footer at the buzzer to give Portland the win.



Bonzi Wells had 27 points and nine rebounds for the Blazers and Wallace had 26 points as Portland improved to 5-1 at home.

Bibby had 26 points and 15 rebounds for the Kings. Peja Stojakovic had 27 points.

Randolph squeezed Sacramento's lead to 103-101 when he made a layup and was fouled with 1:26 left in regulation. Tony Massenburg answered with a short jumper, but Wallace hit a turnaround jumper to keep it close at 105-103.

Randolph hit a pair of free throws with 23.1 seconds left to tie it at 105. Bibby missed a 3-pointer as time ran out, and Massenburg was unable to tip it in.

It was Randolph's fifth double-double in eight games.

The Blazers mounted their vigorous comeback in the third quarter, narrowing it to 71-69 on Wallace's 3-pointer and

SPORTS Continued

Stoudamire's follow-up 22-foot-jumper.

Wallace's turnaround jumper made it 76-76, but the Blazers couldn't take over the lead in a heated half that was marked by three technical fouls - two by the Kings and one by Portland - and Wells' flagrant foul on Tony Massenburg.

Wells opened the third with a driving layup to make it 84-84, but Qyntel Woods missed a fastbreak layup that would have given the Blazers the lead. Bobby Jackson's 3-pointer put the Kings back ahead.

It was the first of four meetings between the Western Conference rivals. Last season the Kings were 3-1, with two wins coming in Portland.

The Kings jumped out to a 20-6 lead and outscored the Blazers 34-18 in the first quarter.

Portland kept it closer in the second quarter, with 27 points to Sacramento's 29, but the Kings led 63-45 at halftime.

Bibby had 12 points and already had a Kings' season-high 13 assists by the end of the half.

Notes:@ The Trail Blazers signed coach Maurice Cheeks to a one-year contract extension before Thursday's game. Terms of the deal for Cheeks, in his third year with Portland, were not released. ... Phil Ford holds Sacramento's franchise record when it comes to assists, with 22 in a game back in 1979. ... Bibby's career high for assists is 18.

Vickers Becomes Youngest NASCAR Champ

By MIKE HARRIS

AP Motorsports Writer

HOMESTEAD, Fla. (AP) — Brian Vickers became NASCAR's youngest champion ever Saturday, claiming the Busch Series title with an 11th place finish behind first-time winner Kasey Kahne at Homestead-Miami Speedway.

The 20-year-old Vickers regained a lost lap to finish just out of the top 10 in the season-ending Ford 300, but that was enough to hold off 1995 series champion David Green.

Green finished ninth and wound up 14 points back, the second-closest margin in series history. The closest finish in the series came in 1992, when Joe Nemechek beat Bobby Labonte by three points.



"This is everything I've dreamed of and everything I've worked for my whole life," said Vickers, who will move up to the Nextel Cup series in 2004, the youngest full-time driver ever in NASCAR's top series.

Green, who started the day 22 points behind Vickers, nearly pulled it out despite losing three laps early in the race. He lost two laps when he cut down a tire running over debris from a wreck, and a third when he was penalized by NASCAR for coming directly into the pits without using the safety lane.

The 45-year-old veteran made up two of the laps with timely caution flags. He stayed on the track on two different occasions while other drivers pitted under green. He regained the lead lap under NASCAR's new rule giving a lap back to the first driver a lap down when a caution flag waves.

"Yeah, losing (the championship) by a couple of positions is hard to swallow," an emotional Green said. "But Brian is a

great kid and a great star and a good champion."

Vickers was lapped by the leaders in the early going, but he, too, got the lap back under the new NASCAR rule.

The No. 5 Chevrolet that Vickers drives is fielded by Hendrick Motorsports, which joined Roush Racing and Richard Childress Racing as the only teams to have won championships in each of NASCAR's top three series - Craftsman Trucks, Busch and what has been known as Winston Cup.

"I am just so proud to give Rick, Papa Joe and Ricky Hendrick their first Busch championship," Vickers said. "I wouldn't want to win this championship with anybody else."

Vickers, who will also race for the same team in Sunday's featured Ford 400 Cup race here, moves up to the Hendrick Cup team next season as teammate to four-time champion Jeff Gordon, two-time champion Terry Labonte and rising star Jimmie Johnson.

The 23-year-old Kahne, also considered a top prospect and driving a Ford for Akins Motorsports, got his first win in his 54th Busch start. His best previous finish was second in August at Michigan.

He also struggled after an early pit stop, but took the lead for the first and only time 29 laps from the end of the 200-lap race on Homestead's reconfigured 1 1/2-mile oval - rebuilt since last year from 6 degrees of banking to 20 degrees.

"I stopped early," Kahne said. "I thought I had a flat tire but it was really so much rubber built up on my tires that I never felt that. I messed up, but we got it back after that and pit strategy got us back in the front where we belong."

Scott Riggs, who led the points several times during the season, was taken out in a first-lap accident and wound up sixth in the standings, 175 points behind Vickers and 66 behind teammate Jason Keller.

HEADLINERS

Students Compete for Pillow Fight Record

CORVALLIS, Oregon (AP) — Knocking the stuffing out of each other may also set a record if Oregon State University students are recognized for what they hope was the largest pillow fight in history.

Unofficially, 766 people showed up at Oregon State on Friday to take part in the jumbo pillow fight in hopes of topping the Guinness Book of Records mark set by 645 people who staged a mass pillow brawl in Garnett, Kan., last June.

"It's awesome to see part of OSU's community come down and do this," said Lige Armstrong, a 21-year-old liberal studies major from Hawaii who organized the event as part of a class project.

Armstrong and five classmates in Communications 322 - a class also known as Small-Group Problem Solving - got an assignment a couple of weeks ago to "do a project with no parameters."

They simply had to organize a group event, said their professor, Michael Beachley, who watched Friday's chaos in front of OSU's Memorial Union building.

The class divided into 10 groups to stage the fight, which had to last at least one minute for each participant. Past class projects have included bungee jumping, skydiving or something as simple as a dinner party.

Pillow fight sign-up sheets with the 766 names will have to be sent to Guinness, based in London, and it will take six to eight weeks to verify the record, Armstrong said.

Milwaukee Postal Workers Find Live Gator

MILWAUKEE (AP) — A four-foot alligator chewed its way out of a shipping carton before a postal worker tossed it into a hamper and called animal control officers.

Employees were sorting mail Friday when they noticed the alligator chewing its way out of an Express Mail box, said JoAnne Blackburn, a Postal Service spokeswoman.

Workers tried to tape the box closed, but the alligator bit it open.

"The nose ... was sticking out with its teeth hanging out," said postal employee Jennifer Hejdak. She said a co-worker picked it up by its tail and threw it in a hamper.

The alligator will remain at a shelter for a week before being shipped to a northern Illinois sanctuary, said Len Selkurt, executive director of the Milwaukee Area Domestic Animal Control. The sanctuary owner will then take it to Florida, he said.

Alligators longer than 20 inches are not allowed to be sent through the mail, and officials said the shipment from Milwaukee to Colorado was under review.

Babies Force Soldiers to Wed in Hospital

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. (AP) — Soldiers Rachel Peralta and Christopher Tripolone had planned to exchange their wedding vows on the beach. Instead, the couple ended up saying "I do" in a hospital chapel.

The bride was wheeled down the aisle Saturday, on doctor's orders to stay in bed until she gives birth to twins. The baby boys aren't due for a couple of months, but Peralta went into pre-term labor last week and found herself at Broward General Medical Center.

Peralta asked hospital officials if the wedding could be in her room. They agreed to a ceremony on site - but in the chapel. For the occasion, staff members ordered flowers and food for a reception. Nurses even helped Peralta get into her bridal gown.

The Army staff sergeants met in early 2001 while stationed at Fort Leonard Wood in Missouri. They both served in Iraq.

Peralta said Tripolone will eventually be transferred to a base in Colorado. She is in the process of leaving the Army.

"Our plans now are to hopefully have some healthy boys...and live happily ever after," Peralta said.

Ariana from pg. 1

A ceremony was held after the Boeing 727-200 airliner landed and offloaded passengers from Kabul, including one passenger that hasn't been to his hometown of Kandahar in 35 years. Governor Pashtun, the president of Ariana Airlines, and others spoke on how beneficial Ariana Airlines is to Afghanistan, and outlined future plans for the national airline.

After the ceremony, new passengers arrived and boarded the plane for the flight back to Kabul.

The reemergence of Ariana Airlines is one of many improvements scheduled to help in the reconstruction of Afghanistan and make it a better place for the people here.

"It's a good thing to further help unite the north and the south of Afghanistan" said Mahoney.



Bystanders wait on the airstrip as the first flight parks on the runway

REF from pg. 1

different units. This small unit provides support all across Afghanistan.

REF rapidly equips soldiers in the field with items they can not get through the normal Army supply channels. The fast and intense war that is being fought here, requires REF to offer quick responses to technical problems that crop up along the way.

When a problem arises with everyday equipment or a solution is needed on how to accomplish a task and the units don't have an answer, REF is called to the scene.

With the help of Exponent Inc., a technical consulting firm headquartered in Menlo Park, CA., REF has given the soldiers more efficient ways to do their jobs.

"Is there something that almost meets the needs? But, damn it, it just needs a little tweak, a little twist, it needs some modification, then we will be there," said Zemach.

The first place REF looks for the answer is with commercial off the shelf (COTS) products that already exist in the civilian market.

"We look at COTS and government off the shelf (GOTS) to see if there is something available to meet the need," said David A. O'Halloran, REF engineer.



With many different needs and requirements the team must sometimes turn to GOTS products, which often are more suited for military application since they have been developed for rugged environments.

If COTS and GOTS have been thoroughly exhausted and there's still a need, REF then turns to the research and development of the product.

Product research and development may take awhile, especially if research is done here and a solution is sought in America. But, with REF in theater and on the battlefields, soldiers can be confident that they'll get the proper equipment, modifications, and prototypes that are badly needed to do the work.

"REF does not take on long term research projects if a solution can be put together and fielded in under 90 days. Then it's the type of short term research and development that REF is well suited for," said Zemach.

"Only by being on the battlefield and living and working directly with soldiers, can we understand and address the true needs of the soldiers in a quick and effective manner," said the REF team members. By moving available technology and solutions to soldiers today instead of years in the future, the United States will remain the world leaders in technological and combat effectiveness.

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NFL WEEK 11 SCORES

Sunday, November 16, 2003

Final OT	1	2	3	4	OT	T
Baltimore (5-5-0)	0	3	0	3	0	6
Miami (6-4-0) «	0	3	3	0	3	9

Final	1	2	3	4	T
Kansas City (9-1-0)	0	3	3	13	19
Cincinnati (5-5-0) «	0	3	7	14	24

Final	1	2	3	4	T
Washington (4-6-0)	0	3	0	14	17
Carolina (8-2-0) «	0	3	7	10	20

Final	1	2	3	4	T
Jacksonville (2-8-0)	0	0	0	3	3
Tennessee (8-2-0) «	3	7	0	0	10

Final OT	1	2	3	4	OT	T
Atlanta (2-8-0)	10	10	0	0	0	20
New Orleans (5-5-0) «	0	3	7	10	3	23

Final	1	2	3	4	T
San Diego (2-8-0)	0	0	0	8	8
Denver (6-4-0) «	10	17	7	3	37

Final	1	2	3	4	T
Detroit (3-7-0)	7	7	0	0	14
Seattle (7-3-0) «	14	21	0	0	35

Final	1	2	3	4	T
Dallas (7-3-0)	0	0	0	0	0
New England (8-2-0) «	3	6	0	3	12

Final	1	2	3	4	T
Arizona (3-7-0)	0	3	3	0	6
Cleveland (4-6-0) «	10	10	14	10	44

Final	1	2	3	4	T
St. Louis (7-3-0) «	3	0	7	13	23
Chicago (3-7-0)	0	14	0	7	21

Final	1	2	3	4	T
Houston (4-6-0) «	0	6	3	3	12
Buffalo (4-6-0)	2	3	3	2	10

Final	1	2	3	4	T
NY Giants (4-6-0)	3	0	0	7	10
Philadelphia (7-3-0) «	7	7	7	7	28

Final	1	2	3	4	T
NY Jets (3-7-0)	7	3	21	0	31
Indianapolis (8-2-0) «	10	14	14	0	38

Final	1	2	3	4	T
Green Bay (5-5-0) «	7	6	0	7	20
Tampa Bay (4-6-0)	0	6	7	0	13

Final	1	2	3	4	T
Minnesota (6-4-0)	0	3	7	8	18
Oakland (3-7-0) «	7	7	7	7	28

Courtesy of.



<u>Mon</u>				
Nov 17		Sunny	59°/35°	0 %
<u>Tue</u>				
Nov 18		Sunny	62°/34°	0 %
<u>Wed</u>				
Nov 19		Sunny	65°/34°	0 %
<u>Thu</u>				
Nov 20		Sunny	69°/38°	0 %

Weekly Weather Forecast

<u>Fri</u>				
Nov 21		Sunny	70°/38°	0 %
<u>Sat</u>				
Nov 22		Sunny	71°/42°	0 %
<u>Sun</u>				
Nov 23		Partly Cloudy	72°/42°	0 %
<u>Mon</u>				
Nov 24		Mostly Cloudy	71°/44°	0 %

Courtesy of the weatherchannel.com

Mountain Warrior Weekly is always accepting comments and suggestions as to how we can improve your newspaper. If you have comments or suggestions, or simply just want to be added to our emailing list, email the staff at
Kandaharpresscenter@yahoo.com